

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the issues raised in the above referenced Office Action is respectfully solicited.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 4, 12-16 and 19-32. Applicants further appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 5, 17 and 18.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy extended during an April 19, 2005 telephone conference regarding the objections in the previous Office Action. The amendments to the specification, claims and drawings are in response to the Examiner's comments.

The objection to the drawings for not showing every feature of the claimed invention has been considered. The phrase "or a switch" has been deleted from Claim 12 as the term "sensor" remaining in Claim 12 encompasses a sensing-type switch. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objection with respect to Claim 12 is respectfully requested.

The drawings are also objected to as not showing the first and second prongs recited in Claim 31 in combination with an electromotive drive and gear arrangement. Figure 2 has been amended to include the operating means illustrated in Applicants' Figure 3. Thus, Figure 2 now illustrates a projection 17b with left and right hand prongs 18b, 19b in combination with an operating device 23b including an electromotive drive 24b and a gear arrangement. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 31 as not being illustrated is respectfully requested.

Amended Figure 2 includes subject matter already shown in Applicants' Figure 3. Paragraph [033] of the specification discloses that the Figure 3 operating means can be easily implemented in the Figure 2 embodiment. Further, the amendment to the specification disclosing the operating means provided in amended Figure 2 corresponds generally to paragraphs [036] to [038] of Applicants' specification describing the same operating means as shown in Figure 3.

Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 2 hereto has been amended to include the specific operating means illustrated in Figure 3, except the reference numerals include the suffix "b" to correspond with the numbering in Figure 2.

Therefore, no new matter has been added to Figure 2 or the specification.

The objections to the claims have been considered. Claims 5, 17 and 18 have been amended as suggested in the Office Action. Therefore, withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.


The rejection of Claim 17 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph has been considered. Claim 17 has been amended to clearly state that the cover is automatically retracted on being released from the projection. This is a result of a spring that winds the cover 12 when the rod 13 is released from the projection.

Allowed independent Claims 23, 24 and 32 have not been amended. Entry of the amendment and allowance of Claims 4, 5 and 12-32 is respectfully requested.

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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